

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 199880 TOSEC 100036

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM USUN NEW YORK
AUG 21:

QUOTE

UNCLAS USUN 3766

PASS TO SEC FROM AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ
SUBJ: COMMITTEE OF 24 AND PUERTO RICO - PRESS COVERAGE

1. MAJOR NEWSPAPERS AND NEWS SERVICE COVERAGE OF
COMMITTEE OF 24 ACTION ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE EMPHASIZED
THE UNUSUAL SUCCESS OF THE U.S. IN SPLITTING THE NON-
ALIGNED VOTE. UPI REPORTED, "SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER
PERSONALLY HAD A HAND IN THE EFFORT." HEADING OF NEW YORK
TIMES EDITORIAL READ: "GOOD SENSE AT THE U.N." IN ITS
EDITORIAL (AND A PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED PAGE ONE NEWS
STORY) TIMES EMPHASIZED THAT THE U.S. HAD TAKEN A "TOUGH
BUT REASONED STANCE" AND HAD TRIMUPHED OVER THE "HOLLOW
RHETORIC AND MINDLESS MAJORITIES THAT HAVE BROUGHT THE
UNITED NATIONS INTO DISREPUTE." TIMES NEWS STORY BY PAUL
HOFMANN HEADLINED "U.S. WINS A U.N. VICTORY ON PUERTO
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RICO" AND SAID WASHINGTON HAD "CAUTIONED GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED
IN THE 24-COUNTRY DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE THAT A VOTE
BACKING THE RESOLUTION WOULD BE CONSIDERED AN 'UNFRIENDLY
ACT.'" STORY ALSO SAID, "IMPLIED IN THE AMERICAN WARNINGS

WAS A CLEAR THREAT OF RETALIATION THROUGH SUCH MEANS AS
WITHHOLDING OF ECONOMIC AID OR OTHER FAVORS." BALTIMORE
SUN PICKED UP TIMES STORY. OTHER PAPERS USED WIRE SERVICES.

2. REUTERS CALLED IT "A VICTORY FOR THE UNITED STATES AND
A SETBACK FOR CUBA." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS TABBED THE COMMITTEE'S
ACTION AS A "SURPRISE VICTORY FOR THE UNITED STATES." ALL
NEWS STORIES REPORTED AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S STATEMENT EXPRESSING
GRATIFICATION FOR THE RESPONSIBLE ACTION OF THE COMMITTEE AND
NOTING THE "FAIR MINDED" REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT. A SPOKESMAN FOR GOVERNOR COLON OF PUERTO RICO
IS QUOTED BY THE AP AS CREDITING BOTH U.S. AND PUERTO RICAN
GOVERNMENT LOBBYING EFFORTS AS BEING THE CRITICALLY IMPORTANT
INGREDIENT. THE WIRE SERVICES WERE ALL CONTACTED BY PUERTO
RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL JUAN MARI BRAS.
HE SAID, "THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS HAVE ACHIEVED BUT A FLEETING
VICTORY," AND PREDICTED THE ISSUE WILL BE BROUGHT "TO OTHER
U.N. FORUMS AS WELL AS THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT," AND ATTACKED
CHINA, INDIA, AND YUGOSLAVIA FOR HAVING "FAILED THE PUERTO
RICAN PEOPLE." BENNETT UNQUOTE MAW

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